

South Wigston Methodist Church

The Oracle



September 2023

Cover picture: WaterAid Harvest appeal

Our Mission Statement

The people of South Wigston Methodist Church are called to live the good news of God's love through open hearts, open minds and open doors.

We strive to be a place where understandings of Jesus Christ can flourish.

We're called to be good neighbours to people in need, to challenge injustice, and to meet regularly for prayers, singing and learning.

One of the ways in which we seek to put this mission statement into practice is to ensure that our church is a safe place for all who use it by following the safeguarding policies and practices of the Methodist Church. Our church's safeguarding policy is on the noticeboard in the lounge.

Safeguarding officer is Margaret Edwards with Mary Bryceland.

South Wigston Methodist Church

Blaby Road, South Wigston LE18 4PB

www.swmchurch.org.uk

Minister: Rev. Frances Ballantyne 0116 277 3631

Frances.ballantyne@methodist.org.uk (Day off - Friday)

Senior Steward: Mary B. 0116 281 2625

Leicester Trinity Circuit, Charity registration number 1129943

Editor: Mary B. contact: pmbry@gmail.com 07891 917768

Contributions always welcome.

Worship in September

Sunday 3rd 10.15 Rev. Frances Ballantyne ~ Covenant service

There will be a chance to meet Reverend Frances, our new minister, after the service when we will be having an extended time for refreshments.

Sunday 10th 10.15 James Blackhall

Sunday 17th 10.15 Jean Thornton

Sunday 24th 10.25 *Harvest festival* led by the local worship team.

There will be a collection of money for WaterAid; donations of tinned and dried foods will go to the Food Bank at the Congregational Church (see page 13).



Supporting WaterAid's harvest appeal means that many more people will have a sustainable supply of clean water that keeps flowing whatever the weather. They will have harvests to celebrate and be able to transform their lives for good.

This year's "Harvest resources for churches" focus on Burkina Faso – where our sponsored child, Mariam, lives.

Rosine and Abdoul may only be in class six, but they're already honing their skills in the vegetable garden. Over the past year, they've been busy learning how to care for delicate seedlings, grow healthy plants, and harvest nutritious produce. It's vital knowledge that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Life here in Burkina Faso – one of the hottest and driest countries in the world – can be tough. And, as climate change brings longer droughts and more unpredictable rainfall, it's getting harder and harder for people to find clean water, or grow the food they need to survive.

But, thanks to a new solar-powered water system, Rosine and Abdoul's school now has a flourishing vegetable garden – giving children here the opportunity to learn important skills, as well as providing nutritious meals in the canteen. And it's not just the pupils who benefit: there's a tap stand for local residents too, who can also buy extra vegetables for their own cooking.



Rosine &
Abdoul



<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/get-involved/fundraising/harvest-appeal>



*A message from our new minister
Rev. Frances Ballantyne*

Hello everyone!

I'm delighted to be coming into Leicester Trinity to serve you all, both within the Church and its local community of South Wigston.

Bear with me if names and faces don't match up but the more I get to know you the easier names will stick!

So, as and when invite me around, call in at the manse (if we are in) and let's enjoy this time together serving Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, in the reality of church and community relationships serving one another in the name of Jesus Christ,

We journey together

Rev Frances Ballantyne

Frances.ballantyne@methodist.org.uk

0116 277 3631 (Friday is a rest day)

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



Thursday 28th September

10.00 to 12.00

Bring your friends!

The Church family in September

In memoriam

We remember Judy Proctor who died on 10th August. Her funeral service was held at St Thomas on 29th August. Our prayers are with Steve, Tim, Sam, her family and friends.

The family worshipped with us until Tim was invited to join the choir at St Thomas and the family moved to worship there. Judy and Steve continued to occasionally drop into church coffee, knit & natter, the walking group and other occasions.

Happy Birthday to

2nd Stuart 14th Rev. Arthur 21st Steve B. 24th David

20th special greetings to Margaret D. on her 80th birthday

Happy anniversary to Estelle & Charles who celebrate on 18th

Church Flowers If you would like to have flowers in church to celebrate a special occasion, or in memory of someone, please contact Margaret E. 0116 278 6616.

3rd Sue H – Mum & Dad's wedding anniversary on 6th September

10th Brenda K 17th Mary B – parents' wedding anniversary

24th Janice for Hilda and Peter

Saturday morning coffee 9.30 to 11.30

This is a wonderful opportunity to open our doors to the people who pass by as well as our regulars. There are 4 or 5 Saturdays each month BUT WE ONLY HAVE 3 SETS OF VOLUNTEERS. Margaret E.; Pat & June; Mary. Margaret D. helps when she can. This means that we often have to do more than one Saturday each month. **CAN YOU HELP?** Have a word with one of us if you're interested.

A Letter from Arthur

I can't think how many letters I have written for the Oracle, but this is the most difficult one of all to write - so here goes.

“FOR I'M BUILDING A PEOPLE OF POWER”



In 1968 the Rowe family arrived in Leicester. Early on, after one of my services, Betty Oldershaw came up to Ann and said, “I don't know what your husband has got, but AMEN!” We just clicked with our new congregation. I think you knew that Ann and I would give you 100% and you gave us 100% in return. When I look back and think of what we accomplished in the 1970s. Two churches coming together and a major building programme with all debts paid off by the numerous fund-raising efforts.

Working together helped to bond the two congregations together. We cut down the costs by doing the decorating ourselves: families working on August Bank Holiday Monday to finish the job, under the watchful eye of Alan, our architect.

The Men's Club came out of our working together, there was more youth work, and we had wonderful music.

The church renewed, in a revolutionary way.

We pioneered much of what is taken for granted today. The Pre-school Playgroup was one of the first in the area. We held a Luncheon Club for the elderly every Saturday, the church was open for coffee every Tuesday and Thursday morning, and we held Petticoat Lane at the side of the Church.

I humbly believe the good Lord knew what He was doing when he sent us to South Wigston.

When we left it was with heavy hearts, but the Lord had other plans for us.

“I WILL HOLD THE CHRIST LIGHT FOR YOU IN THE NIGHTTIME OF YOUR FEAR”

In 1995 we returned to Leicester, but only the 2 of us. We found a very different church.

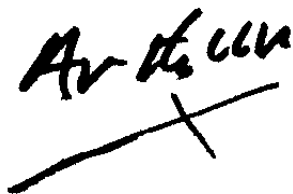
In the 70s it was on the full, now it was on the ebb, circumstances had taken their toll, so many ministers who were only here for a short time, young people moving away, and a congregation growing older.

Then came the pandemic, the country was suffering, churches were suffering and so was our congregation.

There was a lot of grief for loved ones sorely missed.

A new kind of ministry evolved for our church. We are a close community and offer one another comfort, support and love. Who is to say this ministry is not as important as in the “glory days?” I know how much I personally have valued the love you have shown to me in my own difficult days.

Very shortly I shall be moving some 200 miles away. BUT, you will always be my family, I love you all and it has been a privilege to serve you.



Our prayers and best wishes go to Arthur and his son Martin as they move into their new house – sometime in the near future. We trust that all will go well and that Arthur will find a welcoming church and make new friends.

The photo shows the event we held in 2018 when Arthur celebrated 50 years in the ministry.

The Good Shepherd

I have just finished re-reading “Far From The Madding Crowd” by Thomas Hardy.

It is the story of Gabriel Oak, a young shepherd, who is in love with the beautiful, fiercely independent Bathsheba Everdene. He proposes to her, but she turns him down.

Their fortunes take very different paths, Bathsheba inherits her Uncle's farm, but Gabriel loses everything when his young rogue dog drives his entire flock of sheep over a cliff to their death.

Now ruined, Gabriel goes to a hiring fair, but no one wants a shepherd. He is on his way to another fair when he sees some hay ricks on fire, he goes to see if he can help and finds the farmhands rushing around in chaos. He manages to organize the workers and the fire is brought under control.

Unbeknown to Gabriel the farm belongs to Bathsheba, who employs him as a shepherd. He helps her out in many difficult circumstances, and she comes to rely on him.

He is always there to support her, even after her disastrous marriage to the dashing Sargeant Troy, a cavalry man in the local militia, an improvident gambler with no interest in farming.

A neighbouring farmer, who is also in love with Bathsheba, sees the callous way Troy treats her and in a jealous rage shoots him dead.

Gabriel decides that there is nothing left for him to stay for and plans to leave to start a new life in Canada.

All ends happily as Bathsheba realizes that she is in love with Gabriel and cannot cope without him, her Good and Faithful Shepherd.

Just as in our lives, Jesus is our Good Shepherd and we cannot cope without him.

Brenda



Thank you for your donations for Mariam and her family in Burkina Faso.

We support them via Compassion.

Her latest letter is on the noticeboard.

Riz Gras – a WaterAid recipe from Burkina Faso where this one-pot meal is one of the most popular dishes.

120ml vegetable oil	2 onions, chopped
5 cloves garlic, minced	2 chillies, finely chopped (or to taste)
3 tomatoes, seeded & chopped	
170g tomato puree	400g long grain rice
800ml chicken stock (or veg stock)	Cinnamon stick

- Heat the oil in a large pan, and add the onion. Cook until translucent – around 5 minutes.
- Add the garlic, chillies and tomatoes. Cook for another 3 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Add the tomato puree and rice, and stir. Now add the stock, cinnamon stick, and salt & pepper to taste.
- Reduce the heat to low, and cover. Cook for about 12 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the rice is cooked and the liquid is absorbed. Check to make sure most of the liquid is absorbed.
- Turn off the heat, stir the rice, allow to sit for 10 more minutes to absorb the remaining liquid.
- Meat can be added if available.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Riz_gras_rouge_%C3%A0_la_v viande_de_boeuf.JPG by Aboukam

Rent Day at the Framework Knitters' Museum is Saturday 9th September, 10.30am onwards.

In the past, a peppercorn rent of a pair of socks, knitted on one of the workshop frames, was presented to the mayor of Oadby and Wigston. Although the trustees now own the museum it was decided to continue with the ceremony.

Brenda's next quiz is now ready. It is on **Surnames** and is in aid of Wigston Framework Knitters Museum. £1 a copy and £1 if you would like the answers.

Wigston Framework Knitters Museum

42-44 Bushloe End, Wigston LE18 2BA

*Invite you to a cheese and wine
fund raising evening.*

Saturday 9th September @ 6pm

*A selection of red and white wines, soft
drink available and cheeses.*

*£12.50 per head includes
2 glasses of wine.*

*To reserve your place, full payment
required, email wigstonfkmuseum@live.co.uk*

News from MHA Aigburth, Manor Road, Oadby

In July the gardens formed part of Oadby & Wigston's *East Midlands in Bloom* tour of the borough. A fortnight later the Borough, and Aigburth garden, was inspected as part of the East Midlands entry to Britain in Bloom. The results will be released in September and October. The weather was fine and sunny on both days so the judges were able to see residents enjoying the gardens.

The home was reviewed by the Care Quality Commission in July and was rated GOOD in all areas.

Thanks to fundraising events and grants residents have enjoyed 2 canal boat trips run by the Peter le Marchant Trust in Loughborough, with a further trip in September. The minibus is being used to take residents to the allotments on Welford Road. Aigburth staff member, Mike, shows them his allotment and what he is growing and they share refreshments in the fresh air. In the home soloists and groups of musicians regularly perform pieces in a variety of styles from classical to folk and jazz. A resident's granddaughter even brought along her harp.

MHA celebrates 80 years

The MHA story began in 1943 when compassionate members of the Methodist Church came together to establish our mission. Today, we proudly serve and support:

- **3,896** older people living in our care homes, where we offer specialised dementia or nursing care to ensure their wellbeing
- **2,763** older people living independently in retirement living communities, enjoying access to various social and leisure facilities, with the added comfort of flexible care when needed
- **11,400** older people living independently in their own homes, empowered by our community services that span across Britain.
(From <https://www.mha.org.uk/about/>)

There will be a series of events at MHA Aigburth from 16th to 18th September.

Leicestershire Historic Churches Ride and Stride Day Saturday 9th September

This is the 34th year of Ride + Stride in Leicestershire, with over £1,207,459 raised since 1990.

Over 300 Christian places of worship in the County are taking part on the day.

Our church will be open from 10am.

Janet, Sylvia and Brenda are taking part and there is still time to sponsor them. Margaret is on coffee duty, and will sign in visitors during the morning.

Wigston Food Bank (SW Congregational Church)

Organised by the Lions Clubs International (Oadby & Wigston branch), this is a self referral food bank. If you need help, you can just turn up, bring photo ID, proof of address, your own shopping bags (or trolley), and the suggested donation of £1.20. You will be provided with two bags of food for you and your family.

August 7th & 21st

September 4th & 18th

October 2nd, 16th & 30th

November 13th & 27th

December 11th & 18th

January 2024: 8th & 22nd

Bank Holidays - we are open as normal, except Christmas.

For further information call 07818 603 699 or

email owlionsclub@live.co.uk.

SOUTH WIGSTON METHODIST CHURCH

YEAR ENDING 31-8-2023

FUND RAISING AND DONATIONS TO CHARITIES

MIND - Harvest Festival (Sept. 2022).	£133.00
ACTION FOR CHILDREN - Churches Together Advent Service (Nov. 2022)	£46.00
Sing Christmas (Dec. 2022).	£45.00
Christmas Day Collection (Dec. 2022).	£100.00
New Year's Day Lunch. (Jan. 2023).	£56.00
Annual Collection (July 2023).	£94.76
ALL WE CAN - Turkey / Syria Earthquake Appeal (Feb. 2023).	£247.47
CHRISTIAN AID - Good Friday Lunch (April 2023).	£93.00
EASTER OFFERING - Methodist Church World Mission Fund (April 2023).	£80.00
MENPHYS - Coronation "Big Lunch" (May 2023).	£40.00
	<u>TOTAL £935.23</u>

(Note: Some Christian Aid funds collected were sent direct to the charity, rather than through the Church Bank Account, and so are not included above).

ANNUAL DONATIONS FROM THE CHURCH "BATES TRUST" (MAY 2023).

Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (Local Preachers).	£175.00
Methodist Homes (MHA).	£125.00
Methodist Fund for Support of Presbyters and Deacons.	£85.00
Methodist Housing Society.	£85.00
Methodist Church Fund for Property.	£260.00
World Missions Fund.	£125.00
Home Missions Fund.	£125.00
Action for Children.	£180.00
Bible Society.	£85.00
Local Charities. - Menphys.	£80.00
Helping Hands.	£80.00
Rainbows Hospice.	£275.00
	<u>TOTAL £1680.00</u>

COLLECTIONS FOR CHILD SPONSORSHIP FUND - "MARIAM"

Funds raised through Weekly Donations (1-9-22 to 11-8-23).

TOTAL £383.71

GRAND TOTAL OF CHARITABLE FUND RAISING AND DONATIONS - £2998.94

Thank you to everyone who has supported the fundraising activities over the last year.



Circuit Family Worship

HARVEST

Craft! Food! Music! Prayer!

Saturday 30th September 3 – 5 pm

Mayflower Methodist Church. Ethel Road,
LE5 5ND

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult,
for more information contact Deacon Sharon on 0116 277 0317

ALL WELCOME! FREE!

The dying leaves of Autumn

By Mavis Mitchelmore

A curtain of gold stretches before the eye.
Colours changing, as autumn passes by.
From reds and coppers to russets and browns,
Shapes, twisted and curling, they spread through the towns.
Falling, fluttering, they swirl and twirl
As if dancing to the tune of the wind in a whirl.
Carpeting the pavements with their rich dark shade
They scrunch and squelch, in all weathers they laid.
Colours now fading, no majesty, no glow,
Forgotten, swept away, no more to take a bow
Before an audience, an admiring throng,
They shrivel and die as winter creeps on.

